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ST. JAMES CHURCH
WINNIPEG

85th
Anniversary
Book



1850

—

1936

St. James Anglican Church



TO OUR CHURCH-PEOPLE OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES:—

We ask you to accept this copy of our Anniversary Book with our compliments and the assurance of our best wishes. We trust you will enjoy the perusal of it: we hope the effect of doing so will be to stir our gratitude for "the good things God has done for us already whereof we rejoice". Now it will remain for us to write upon the blank pages of tomorrow, OUR story, and may it be worthy of the story of the past as we have striven here to record it.

On Sunday next, June the 7th, we shall hold Anniversary Services of Thanksgiving and of Rededication. We invite you to join with us in making the day a happy and inspiring one.

The hours and places of the services will be as follows:—

At 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the New Church.

At 10.30 in the cemetery grounds, north of the Old Church.

At 11 a.m. in the Old Church.

At 3.30 on the grounds to the south of the Rectory and behind the Old Church, when the music will be provided by the Band of the 90th, under Bandmaster F. R. Stanford, and the address given by the Rev. Canon Herklots, M.A.

At 7 p.m. Evening Prayer in the New Church.

Your presence and co-operation will be appreciated.

G. W. FINDLAY, Rector.

D. L. EVANS,

J. R. PRITCHARD, Wardens.

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ST. JAMES CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

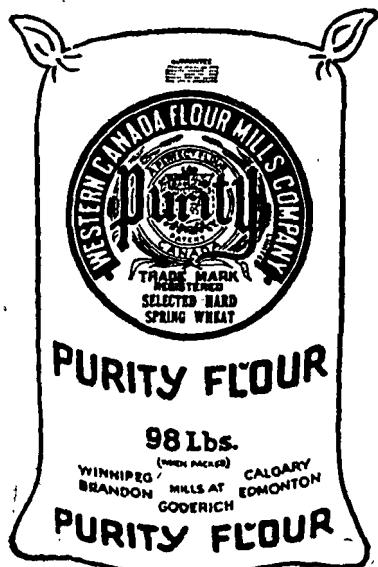
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to God and to my human comrades in worship.

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I may live a brave, happy and useful life.

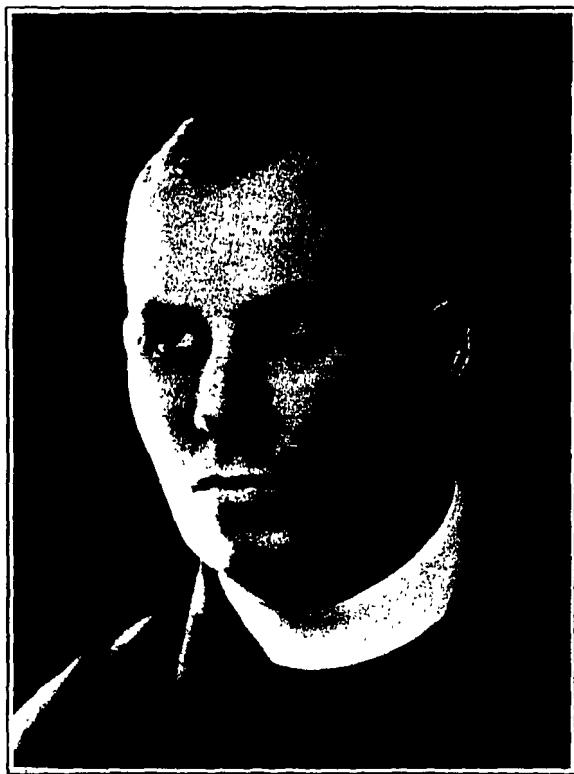
Here I gain strength by which I become that
which I have learned I ought to be.

Here I find comfort in my sorrow; courage in
my struggle; joy in my victories.

Here I come into union with Christ, my Master
and Friend.



The New Church, present day (1936)



Rev. G. W. Findlay, M.A., Rector of St. James, 1927-



C. H. J. Johnson (Captain, Church Army), Rector's Assistant

FOREWORD

AL FOREWORD to this Anniversary Book is necessary. That it should come from the Rector of the Parish is taken for granted. It is a pleasure to write it, and I greet you through it with all the warmth of affection I possess.

To have been for the past ten years the Rector of this old historic Parish is a privilege which I honor and have enjoyed, and I look forward with hope and confidence to what my remaining years here will bring.

It is well on occasion to stop and consider the "rock whence we are hewn and the hole of the pit whence we are digged," and this our contributors in various ways have helped us to do. We are indebted to them and herewith our indebtedness is cordially acknowledged. In particular do we mention Mr. W. A. Fyles and Mr. F. W. Thompson, who, with the Rector, formed the Compilation Committee, the former caring for the historical material and the latter for the photographs and cuts. Also Miss Elizabeth Henderson, the granddaughter of the late Neill Henderson, who assisted with the gathering of the material for and the building of the old church, and who—though not a member of our congregation—has helped in many ways, and particularly with the biographical sketch of Mrs. Wright.

A work of this kind is obviously intended to be a means to an end and not an end in itself. To the story of St. James Parish as it stands in A.D. 1936 we are not writing "FINIS" but "to be continued." As we continue, however, we shall continue with fresh courage and confidence and with a quickened sense of gratitude, having reflected upon the foundations so well and so generously laid for us by those who have preceded us. May we be worthy of our heritage.

Canon Peter Green, Canon of Manchester Cathedral and Chaplain to His Majesty the King, suggests that the need of the Church to-day is: 1st—congregations, as large as possible; 2nd—converted congregations. 3rd— instructed congregations; and 4th—missionary spirited congregations. We may well set this ideal before ourselves as we move forward to build, bigger and better, the fabric of the Kingdom of God upon the foundations already laid.

I would that our conception of the Church should be nothing less than this, namely, that it is "the extension of the Incarnation." "Even as my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you" was the commission of the Risen Lord to His Church, or, as it is so beautifully and simply stated in one of our great hymns—

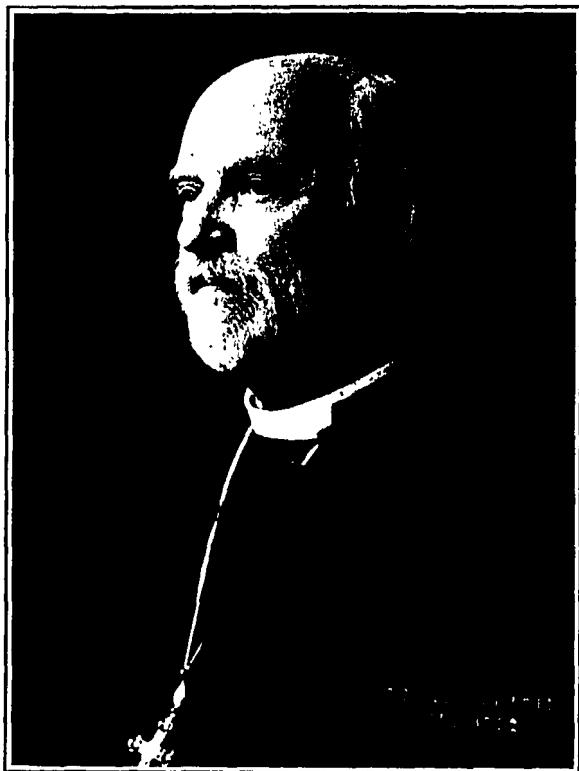
"Christ is gone up; yet e'er He passed
From earth, in heaven to reign,
He formed one holy Church to last
Till He should come again."

"His twelve apostles first He made
His ministers of grace;
And they their hands on others laid,
To fill in turn their place."

"So age by age, and year by year,
His grace was handed on;
And still the holy Church is here,
Although her Lord is gone."

Faithfully yours,

G. W. FINDLAY.



Most Reverend M. M. Harding, D.D., *Archbishop of Rupert's Land*

A Message from His Grace

Synod Office, Trinity Hall, Winnipeg, Man.,

February 27th, 1936.

REV. G. W. FINDLAY,
St. James' Rectory,
Winnipeg, Man.

My dear Mr. Findlay:

It is with pleasure that I pen a message to be inserted in the Year Book you purpose issuing for the information and edification of the Parishioners of St. James.

The Parish over which you preside as Rector, was one of the first I heard of from Archbishop Machray in 1892 when I joined the ranks of the Clergy in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. It is true it has not been my privilege to be associated closely with its Rector and its people until lately, yet I have always been aware of the large place it occupies in the affections of the earlier and prominent citizens of Winnipeg. In the earlier days too, as to-day, the Rector and Parish of St. James were closely associated in the larger work of the Church in the Diocese. It has often occurred to me that the Episcopate and labors of the learned and devoted Bishop David Anderson, the first Bishop of Rupert's Land, might well be commemorated to the advantage of the Church in the Diocese, and now I am reminded that St. James' Parish was the first Parish formed during his Episcopate, and that the original church he dedicated in 1853 still occupies the picturesque site selected at that time. I feel sure that you and your parishioners will gladly call to mind the valuable services he rendered the church in the vast Diocese of Rupert's Land during the eleven years he served as Bishop, and receive inspiration from those happy memories.

It has been well said "Church history provides a good tonic for drooping spirits," and if at any time during difficult periods like unto that through which we are now passing, you and your parishioners have felt depressed, I am confident the recollection of past achievements has cheered you and inspired you in making earnest efforts to extend the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Parish and in the Diocese which you always serve so faithfully.

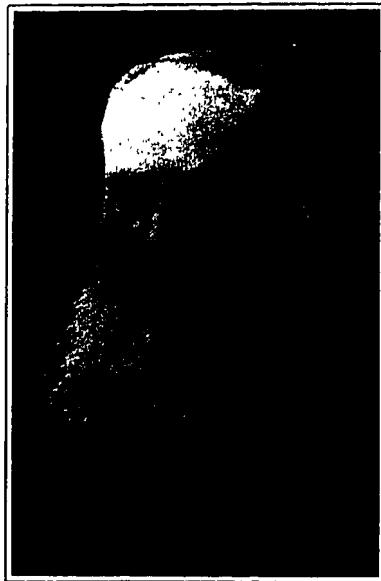
I pray God's richest blessing may rest upon you and your people throughout your celebrations and, as you labor on in fulfilling your vocations and ministries

I am, my dear Mr. Findlay,

Faithfully yours,

M. M. RUPERT'S LAND.

A Message from Archbishop Matheson



*Most Rev. S. P. Matheson, D.D., formerly Archbishop of Rupert's Land
and Primate of All Canada*

91 Kingsway Avenue, Winnipeg, Man.,
February 21, 1936.

MY DEAR PEOPLE OF ST. JAMES:

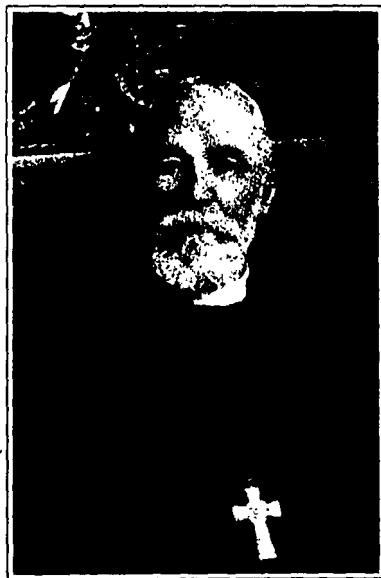
I am told that your Parish is shortly to publish a "Year Book," and that the Parishioners would welcome a message from their former Chief Pastor and friend. Right gladly, therefore, do I respond and send you the warmest possible greetings and the best of good wishes. For several reasons I have always had a warm spot in my heart for St. James as one of the pioneer Parishes of the Diocese. To begin with, I have known personally all its Rectors right down in succession from its first incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Taylor, to my good friend Mr. Findlay, who now occupies the position, and to know them was to respect them and very highly regard them. Then, again, when I look back upon the long road to the yesterdays of my life, I remember that I had a very early connection with the Church and Parish. In sorting over some old papers, the other day, I came across one of the very first sermons that I preached, and it was marked "St. James, Assiniboia," and I recall the occasion very vividly. I was a theological student of St. John's, barely eighteen years of age, and you may imagine how nervous and perturbed a callow youth of that age would feel appearing in the pulpit before a congregation of intelligent seniors, many of whom were very prominent citizens. Saint Paul warned young Timothy, "Let no man despise Thy youth," and the people of St. James were generous enough *not* to do that. On the contrary, their eyes looked sympathy and kindness into mine and they gave me a respectful hearing, which was a genuine means of encouragement to a young recruit in one of his first, if not his very first, attempts in public speaking. Though that was nearly 66 years ago I have never forgotten it, with the result that it ever since has been a pleasure to me to appear before a St. James congregation.

When I spoke to you on the occasion of one of your Anniversaries, I remember I mentioned that Bishop Anderson, in his "notes of the flood of 1852," refers to St. James parsonage and vicinity as the *one high spot* at which he and others took refuge in the first stages of that inundation. Will it be out of place for me to say here that the Church of St. James in its early days was ecclesiastically the only "*high spot*" in the Diocese. Mr. Taylor was the only S. P. G. missionary, the others all being C. M. S. representatives, and from the very first he introduced at St. James a service of a higher type than that in vogue in the other churches of the Settlement. It was, however, simply "an old-fashioned High Church service," not extreme nor exaggerated, but simply reverent, orderly, and becoming in seemliness. Before I cease referring to the old days, the memory of which is very precious to me as one of the few surviving old-timers, perhaps I may say something about the Church people who first settled there and comprised the pioneer Parishioners of St. James. They were disbanded soldiers, discharged from military contingents who had come to the country for its protection during some temporary disturbances. We called them "Pensioners" because, I suppose, they received their grants of land as pensions when they were discharged. I remember them well and knew them well. They were a fine class of people, of good character and calibre. They joined very heartily in all the social activities of the country, were very fond of horses and horse races and other innocent sports. While I would not venture to claim that they were very demonstrative in their outward observance of religion, they were, nevertheless, good Church people and excellent citizens. Having been previously "soldiers of the realm," they possessed characteristics which they had inherited or imbibed, and some of the most outstanding ones were keen loyalty to their sovereign, to their country, their church, and their God. If I happen to be addressing any of their descendants may I express the hope that in every way they are worthy of their estimable forbears, as I remember them, who in the early days colored the life of St. James and left their mark upon it.

But I must not expend my message in mere reminiscences of the past and references to the early pioneers, but address myself to the Parishioners of more modern days and to those who now compose the congregation. In your worship and in your participation in the sacred ordinances of your Church, may I wish you every blessing and spiritual benefit. If I ask myself what are some of the hall marks of a truly successful Parish Church, making for the highest benefit arising out of Church membership, what is the answer? Is it merely a well organized parochial system, with helpful and reverently conducted Sunday services, business-like financial management for the upkeep of the Parish, a devoted Rector giving of his best for God's work in both pulpit and pastoral effort, a good and inspiring choir and loyal and earnest Church officers, etc., etc.? Yes, these undoubtedly are some of the primary signs and requisites of a successful Church, but, after all, they are only the outward machinery, subsidiary to the "one thing" for which any Church exists, the one objective and paramount reason for which St. James' Church is here and is kept going, the *winning of your souls* to God through Christ. Therefore, while I crave for you in great fulness all the above-mentioned helps, may I extend to you, as my *highest wish* and highest hopes for you in my greetings, what the aged apostle, St. John, extended in a letter to his friend, which is as follows: "Beloved, I wish, above all things, that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." It was the soul, you see, that *counted* with him as an old church worker of ripe Christian experience. And let me say that it is the souls of your Church and congregation that *count*, in all the work that goes on in your Parish. That is the *test* of the prosperity of any and of every Parish. There is no real prosperity without that, namely, the winning, as time goes on, of souls to Christ. That from the bottom of my heart is my closing message to my dear friends of St. James.

I am, your affectionate friend,

S. P. MATHESON, *Archbishop.*



*Right Reverend Cyprian Pinkham, D.D. (Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary),
Rector of St. James, 1868-1881*

A Message from Mrs. Pinkham

1211 7th Street W., Calgary,
February 24, 1936.

DEAR MR. FINDLAY:

It gives me great pleasure to send you a few lines for the Year Book of your Parish, which I understand you are bringing out shortly.

I am in my 87th year, and my thoughts often go back to the time I spent with my dear husband in St. James Parish.

It was in the year 1867 that the S. P. G. offered him the mission of St. James, in the Red River Settlement. He at first refused, as his heart was set on going to some field in the East, but finally decided to do so, and sailed for his work on July 16th, 1868. He arrived in Winnipeg on September 11th, and on the day after received his license to officiate as Curate of St. James.

I became engaged to him the third time we met, and we were married on December 29th, 1868. We were obliged to spend the winter with my father, as the Parsonage had been rented, and it was a great joy, when the spring came, to move to the dear little bungalow situated on the Assiniboine River. There was quite a bit of land around the house and a nice grove of trees, and we soon made it a very charming little home. Our income was \$750.00 a year. I was only nineteen years of age when I was married and knew very little of the duties of a clergyman's wife. I taught Sunday School at nine in the morning and again at three in the afternoon, and had mothers' meetings—many of the mothers being years older than I was—and a sewing class for the girls.

We had to do a lot of nursing, as doctors and nurses were scarce. I had eight children, six of whom were born at St. James.

In 1882 my husband was made Canon of St. John's and Archdeacon of Manitoba, and so we left our dear little home and went to live at St. John's.

Will you remember me to any of our old Parishioners who may be still alive, and praying that God's Holy Spirit will rest on all your work.

Yours sincerely,

JEAN G. PINKHAM.

A Message from Rev. Nicholson



Rev. W. G. Nicholson, M.A., Rector of St. James, 1912-1926

9 Ansley Street, Toronto, Ont.

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW WORKERS:

It is a very great pleasure to learn from your Rector that the Parish of St. James is holding its own and making encouraging progress.

We have passed through one of the most trying periods in history—four years of frightful war, one of devastating epidemic, and five years of destructive depression—and throughout it all the Church has stood firm, “a shelter from the storm and a shadow from the heat.” Multitudes of societies and organizations have come into being and passed away, but the Church remains. Even in Russia, where definite efforts have been made to destroy Christian faith, the Light has not completely gone out and will, I am convinced, burn brightly again.

I often receive letters from those who used to be members of St. James. They are now scattered all over the country. But one conviction comes from those letters—it is the way life has been enriched for so many by the fellowship which they enjoyed in the Church. We ought all to be thankful for the blessings brought to us through our Church.

It is interesting to notice how through 1900 years Christ has come on different occasions with a new challenge to His followers. He comes to us with a fresh challenge to-day. Great opportunities are before us as Christians. The world is realizing that it cannot get along without the spiritual, and what we need now more than buildings are men and women who have really pledged themselves to follow Christ and who are prepared to do that at all costs.

My earnest hope is that you may prosper financially, numerically, but above all spiritually, in the coming years, and be strengthened and united to work for Christ.

With grateful appreciation of the invitation to write in your book, and with affectionate greetings,

I am, yours very sincerely,

W. G. NICHOLSON.

St. James

*St. James, Assiniboia—Circa MDCCCLX*

On the Assiniboine, not far from where it enters the Red, there is a stretch of rapid water—quite rapid, indeed, it is, for a prairie river. Often the current breaks into white crests over the tilted flag-stones and makes a sound of rushing in the air, and of gurgling. Birds love the place and come there to nest and sing among the trees when the snow has gone away. The voices of children at play mingle with the song of the river and the birds. On one side, toward the north, there is a thick fringe of shrubbery by the water's edge, and then a considerably area of sturdy oak trees, spreading along the river bank and rising with the ground to the prairie level. There among the trees is the little white Church of St. James, with the graveyard all about it; a memory it is, and a holy hope. It is getting on now towards four score years and ten since it was begun by lovers of God among the pioneers. The little Church has been watching ever since, fixed, and confident, by the passing river, through the flitting years—an immortal thing among the graves of mortals. She saw the red man pass from the river and the ox-cart from the trail; she recalls the buffalo on the prairie in great herds, and the first breaking of the rich black soil for the settler's needs. She could tell of the flood days in the valley of the Red River, when all the dwellers on its banks sought refuge within sight of her spire and the welcome of her bell. And somewhere she has the picture and the sound of the voices of the faithful souls who met and talked of her before her foundations were laid. Nor does she forget the happy day of her opening and the presence of good Bishop Anderson, then young and handsome, full of hope, nor of Rev. W. H. Taylor, her first and faithful pastor, predecessor of many another worthy clergyman of the Church—Pinkham, Cowley, Armstrong, Nicholson, Findlay. It has been her privilege to maintain a sound Anglican tradition—the ministering of the Word and Sacraments in those shifting times when men were uncertain of their tradition and their destiny.

All the Churches of the city and land will rejoice with the Rector and people of St. James on this great occasion, and will offer a prayer to Him who gave to all men and the Church universal, the secret of His presence and His life—the Holy and Eternal Spirit.

WM. BERTAL HEENEY,
*Chairman of the Archives Committee of the General Synod
and Archivist of the Province of Rupert's Land.*

Parish of St. James, Assiniboia

"Behold, I make all things new."—Revelation xxi, v.
(The text of the first Rector's first sermon)

SOME seventeen years before the formation of the Dominion of Canada, there was founded here on the banks of the Assiniboine, the Parish of St. James. In two respects, its record is unique. The original church building is unquestionably the oldest ecclesiastical edifice in Winnipeg. Yet we have in our congregation, a parishioner and regular attendant at services, who as a child, was present at the dedication of the Parish Cemetery in 1856.



Rev. W. H. Taylor,
Rector of St. James, 1853-1867

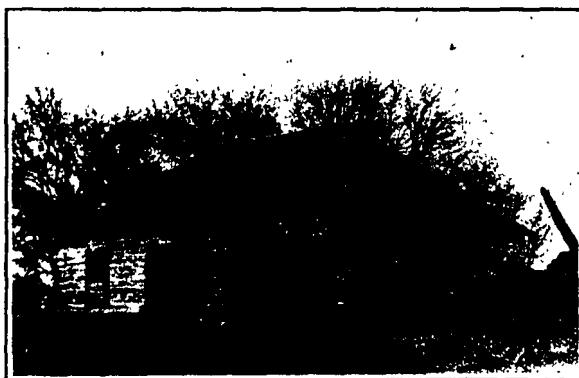


Mrs. W. H. Taylor,
Wife of Rector of St. James, 1853-1867

The Rev. W. H. Taylor, the first rector, arrived in the Red River Colony in September, 1850. The site of old St. James was an ancient Indian encampment and burial ground, standing on a ridge extending from Omand's Creek west to the present city limits. It may be "that the site for the Church was chosen because of the ford, still navigable, which crosses the river only a few yards downstream" but more likely did the ground, being elevated, appeal to the eye of Bishop Anderson as a place of refuge in the event of a flood. "It was to this spot the settlers repaired and camped to escape the waters of the flood of 1852, those flood-waters on which men paddled from St. James to Stony Mountain, and on which the first timbers prepared for the church were washed away." These oak timbers were rafted down the Assiniboine from Baie St. Paul, hewn by hand, and fitted into their places by volunteers from among the men of the parish. Among those early craftsmen we recognize the names of Bruce and Henderson—names which Bruce Park and Henderson Highway call to mind. By 1852 the old parsonage was building, and was completed when the church was consecrated in 1853. The cemetery was dedicated on the occasion of the third visitation of Bishop Anderson.

"The parish was a large one, bounded on the east by the Hudson's Bay Reserve and running roughly seven miles westward. Many of the people were 'pensioners' from the small military force (which had been supplied for the defence of the Red River Colony) or retired Hudson's Bay servants, but there were a few Kildonan folk among them, and the St. James settlement was, in that sense, the first off-shoot from the original colony. It is interesting to know that the Hudson's Bay Company's land grant, eighteen chains wide on the river and four miles deep to the north, was given not for the use of the parish but as an endowment for the support of the Rector."

On the first page of the original Parish Record book is a detailed inventory of the furniture and contents of the Church in 1853. The Communion vessels (still in use) were presented to Rev. Taylor for the new parish by the congregation of his former home in Clint, Worcestershire. The various books used for Divine Service were donated by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. At the first general meeting of the parishioners in 1855, James Spence and James Isbister were elected Wardens, Henry Cook and Alban Fidler elected as Sidesmen. About the year 1860 the first Parish School was built on a plot of ground near the Church, donated by Alban Fidler. Progress during these infant years of our parish was, of necessity, slow. However, under the observant eye of its rector, a steady growth in interest in matters spiritual and educational could be noted, so that on the occasion of his retirement in May, 1867, the Rev. Mr. Taylor could report to the S.P.G. "that he left behind him a nice church with suitable furniture, Communion plate, etc., a good parish and clerical library, a convenient and commodious parsonage, a good schoolroom, all free."



St. James Rectory, built 1853, demolished 1909

When he arrived in September, 1868, his successor, the Rev. Cyprian Pinkham, "found every convenience to his hands." One small matter, however, appeared to demand immediate attention. At the first Vestry meeting over which he presided, the new Rector suggested "that the Sunday morning service be changed to eleven o'clock instead of ten-thirty, owing to the number of persons who came late." This suggestion was "unanimously rejected." In 1869 the second Parish School was built, replacing the former one, now much too small to accommodate the ever-increasing number of students. The contract with the Master, Mr. Kitson, was drawn by Archbishop Machray and bears witness to his mental acumen and sense of economy. It was stipulated that the Master's duties included the teaching of music. For each and every Sunday service he and his tuneful band of scholars attended, the Master

was to receive as remuneration, one shilling—providing the vocal efforts of his proteges were pleasing to the ears of the congregation.

In 1871 the second Sunday service was first held in the evening instead of during the afternoon. For the sake of comparison, it is interesting to note that the number of communicants for Easter of this year was seventy-four. In October, 1876, extensive repairs were made in the church building "to prevent it sinking toward the river." The original tower at the western end of the structure had, in the meanwhile, been removed, "the foundations thereof not being strong enough to bear its weight." As nothing was done to replace this tower the Church suffered greatly in general appearance and beauty through the absence of both tower and belfry.



Interior, Old St. James Parish Church, Christmas, 1915

Although his parochial duties taxed considerably his strength and made demands on his available time, the Rev. Mr. Pinkham was during, and immediately after, his Incumbency in St. James, the first superintendent of education for the Protestant Schools of the province, a member of the Council of Manitoba University and one of its representatives on the Board of Studies. Possibly it was due to his keen interest in education that the following minute appears on the records in February, 1877: "The Vestry of St. James hereby consents that the Lord Bishop of Rupertsland shall donate one acre of land from the Church lands of this Parish for a site for a Protestant Public School for this Parish." The building itself was later erected to the northwest of the Church in the present treed enclosure located at the corner of Portage Avenue and St. James Street.

In 1878 the Sexton's charge for digging a grave was two dollars. A meeting at this date considered "the proposition of letting lots in the Cemetery," and on the 12th of December, 1878, the Vestry "authorized the Incumbent to permit casual interments in the churchyard for the time being, of persons not belonging to the Parish, and that the charge for such interments be five dollars in addition to the usual fee for digging the grave."

At the annual Parochial Meeting of 1879, the Rector reported the number of families in the congregation as sixty; the number of active communicants as seventy-eight. Two years later Mr. Pinkham resigned to become Rector of the newly-created Parish of All Saints. When next his name appears, years later, in the Parish Service Register it reads "Cyprian, Saskatoon and Calgary."

Our third Rector, Rev. A. E. Cowley, served from 1881 to 1909. In addition to his duties in St. James, he was Priest in charge of the Parishes of Headingley and St. Francois. The original Rectory was abandoned, shortly after the new Rector's arrival, and a new Parsonage built. The old building, a photograph of which appears in this article, survived until 1909 as a relic of days gone by. The Red River roof and many-paned windows are worthy of note. In 1881 the first mention of sale of Parish lands is made. At this time some three hundred acres (one-half of the original grant) were sold at an average price of thirty-three dollars an acre. From 1889 to 1904, extensive repairs were undertaken in connection with the Church. The present belfry was erected and new pews installed. "In 1909 the old system of lighting by oil lamps was dispensed with, and replaced by modern electric fixtures."

In March, 1904, the Rector, with deep regret, recorded in the Service Register, the death of the Church's G. O. M.—Archbishop Machray. By 1909, what had formerly been barren prairie had now grown into a thickly populated district. During his long Incumbency, Rev. Cowley had witnessed the foundation of the Parishes of All Saints', St. George's, St. Matthew's, St. Jude's and St. Margaret's; each in turn formed of portions of the original Parish of St. James.



Rev. A. E. Cowley, Rector of St. James, 1881-1909

The brief but successful period of office of Rev. Geo. I. Armstrong begins October 3rd, 1909. During his Incumbency the present Rectory was built, and the Mission, which finally developed into the Parish of St. Patrick's, founded. The Parish Register for 1912 contains two brief and pathetic entries: Oct. 24—Rector ill. Nov. 8—Death of the Rector. Thus came to an untimely close the life of one who was beloved both as Priest and Citizen.



Rev. G. I. Armstrong, Rector of St. James, 1909-1912

In December of 1912, the fifth Rector, Rev. W. G. Nicholson, assumed office. Shortly afterwards the rapid development of the Western area of the municipality and over-crowding at services in the old Church led to the establishment of St. James Mission in Roseberry Hall. As early as March, 1913, tentative proposals for the purchase of a site for a new church were being discussed. By August, 1915, evening services were regularly held in Roseberry Hall, and in June, 1916, services were conducted at 10 a.m. each Sunday at the Returned Soldiers' Home, Deer Lodge. On May 26, 1918, a Memorial Service was held in old St. James, when Memorial Tablets in honor of Parishioners who had made the supreme sacrifice, were unveiled. The war years came to an end with this significant entry in the Parish Register:—"On Nov. 11th word was received that the Germans had signed the Armistice, which gave a great victory to the Allies. A few weeks later, all the city churches (which had been closed because of the epidemic of influenza) re-opened with Thanksgiving Services for Victory."

By 1919 it was apparent that "the mission was the centre of the work of the Parish and that the Parish Church was not convenient to a large percentage of the people." After several years' deliberation, during which funds were being raised, plans for the new Church were completed. On Nov. 26, 1922, this entry appears in the Parish Register: 8 a.m.—40 Communicants. First Service in New Church, College Street and Portage Avenue. Service Records continued in a New Book." However, the link with the past has not been severed, for at Christmas and Easter ever since, a celebration of the Holy Communion has been held in the Old Church, while an Annual Anniversary Service is held in May in the Rectory Grounds.

Before his retirement in 1926, Mr. Nicholson had witnessed the founding of St. Andrew's—the seventh Parish formed from the original St. James.

Our present Rector first took regular services in January, 1927. He was no stranger to us, as he had previously served as Curate of All Saints. In March, the organ at present in use was installed. On Sunday, Dec. 21, 1929, the Church of



Exterior, Old St. James Parish Church, 1920

St. Aidan, the youngest daughter Parish of Old St. James, and the eighth, was formally opened, when an Altar Cross, suitably inscribed, was presented to the new Parish by the Parishioners of St. James. At the Annual Parishioners' Meeting, January, 1930, the first Junior Vestry was formed at the suggestion of Mr. Findlay. "The idea being that the Junior Vestrymen should act as Sidesmen along with members of the Senior Vestry, and that generally they should become familiar with the



New St. James Parish Church, built 1922

affairs of the church, so that in due time they would become better qualified to serve on the Senior Vestry."

In 1933, the Rector, who had just completed twenty-five years of service as a Priest of the Church, received the felicitations of the congregation, and friends in other Parishes. This was not, however, a year of unqualified bliss. Our record would not be complete were we to fail to mention the splendid and generous efforts of all in subscribing to the Restoration Fund, and in particular to thank Mr. D. A. Thompson for his self-sacrificing services in this matter.

Though much has been accomplished of late years, much remains undone. The daily round and common task cannot be accomplished by the Rector, his worthy lieutenant Captain Johnson, and the faithful few, alone. What the future holds in store for us all—but more especially the young people of this Parish—will depend on the spirit of co-operation and the degree of self-sacrifice to which we all are willing to commit ourselves. Viewing past achievements of those no longer with us, and reminding those who are still among us of their solemn duty to those who follow, may we, like the Spartans of old, say: "We are what you have been; we shall be what you are."



The Font

A Biographical Sketch

Mrs. A. Wright

"**H**ISTORY," wrote Carlyle, "is the essence of innumerable biographies," and the history of the Parish of Saint James is no exception to this rule. Much of the biographical material has been lost or forgotten in the swiftly changing circumstances of pioneer life, and too many of our people must be counted among those "which have no memorial, who are perished as though they had never been and their children after them," who live for us only in the fields they planted, the roads they opened, the social foundations they laid. The more reason for thankfulness, then, that we still have with us one whose life for most of its course has been bound up with the life of Saint James, and who can, with a few vivid words, carry us back in spirit to the days before Winnipeg was.

Mrs. Wright was born in Fort Garry, inside the fort itself, in August of 1849, and in an old print she can point to the roof of the house that was her birthplace. The 40's were troubled years for the people of Red River. There was some political discontent in the Colony itself, and to the south were Indian disturbances and the threat of a Fenian invasion. For a time three hundred men of the Sixth Regiment, under Colonel Crofton, had been quartered in the Colony, and after their return to England in 1848 a party of seventy pensioners arrived, so that in an emergency trained soldiers might be available. In this party was Robert Ramsay, Mrs. Wright's father, who had seen twenty-one years' service with the Royal Artillery. For a part of that time he had been stationed in Quebec, and he was present at "the Battle of the Windmill" in 1838, when American filibusters, sympathizing with William Lyon Mackenzie, crossed the St. Lawrence near Prescott and seized a stone mill, which they held until finally routed by the arrival of artillery from Kingston. Before leaving Scotland for the Red River he had been married, and his wife accompanied him on the long voyage by way of Hudson's Bay. Like her husband, Mrs. Ramsay was Edinburgh Scotch and a Presbyterian, but there was as yet no Presbyterian minister in the Colony and the little daughter born to them in the fort was in due course christened "Mary" by Archdeacon Cochrane. Mary Ramsay—we feel that she must have been a sturdy child—played in the fort and on the river bank outside the gates, watched the Indians as they came to trade, saw the York boats come in with supplies from England and the canoes with priceless furs from the North, watched her father as he loaded the cannon for the salutes that were fired in honor of important visitors, heard the bells ring from the turrets twain across the river in Saint Boniface, later, indeed, was to see those turrets collapse in the fire that destroyed the first cathedral.

For seven years Robert Ramsay served "the Company," then the family moved to the farm granted to him, one of the long, narrow river farms of the old parish survey, running from the Assiniboine back to what is now Notre Dame Avenue. The house was on the river bank, very close to where Riverbend School now stands. Fort Garry was still only a trading post and for church and school one had to look, not "downtown," as we would say, but westward to the little Saint James' Church recently opened and to the school that had been built near it. Too young to remember the opening of the church, one of Mrs. Wright's earliest recollections in connection with Saint James is of the day on which the church-yard was consecrated by Bishop Anderson. First came a slow, jolting ride in an ox-cart, then the impressive ceremony, then, probably most important to the children, a picnic dinner on the grass. It was a memorable day. The Bishop's sister and his house-keeper had come out to help Mrs. Taylor, and perhaps to them, and to some people

now, a picnic following the consecration of a burial-ground would seem very strange, almost a trifle irreverent. But distances were long in those days, and we remember One who had compassion on weary multitudes and invited them to rest on the hill-side while food was brought, and like to think that many Jewish children carried with them all their lives a memory of loaves and fishes eaten out of doors on a summer day.

It would be interesting to know more about the life of a child in Red River sixty, seventy, eighty years ago. Sometime, we hope, Mrs. Wright will tell us about the years that lay between her first remembrance of the old church and what must surely have been a great event in her life, the trip overland to Fort Carlton on the Saskatchewan. She accompanied Mrs. Pruden, the wife of a trader, and the journey took exactly a month, from the 2nd of September to the 2nd of October, 1868. Now it takes less than twenty-four hours. Except for those of us who have been brought up on stories of the early days, it is almost impossible to picture the West as it was then, or the conditions of such a journey. There were no roads except the cart-trail, no ferries, no bridges, no towns. "Not even a furrow," said Mrs. Wright, "after we left the Settlement." She spent the winter at Carlton and returned to Saint James the following spring, when the weather was more favorable and the party made the trip in eight days. And when she reached Rat Creek, near Portage la Prairie, she found history again in the making. There in the rich prairie soil was the furrow plowed to mark the boundaries of his land by Kenneth Mackenzie, first of that second tide of settlement that in succeeding waves was to reach the Rockies.

And yet again we come to an event in Mary Ramsay's life that touched closely the broader current of history. In November of 1869 she was married—by the Rev. George Young in the old Red River Hall on Main Street—to Archibald Wright, a young Scotchman, a harness-maker by trade, who had come out to the



Mrs. A. Wright (nee Mary Ramsay), born in Fort Garry, Red River Settlement, Aug. 27th; 1849. Oldest living member of St. James Congregation, for many years President of the Woman's Auxiliary

United States to make army equipment during the Civil War. His contract completed, he made his way west to the Pacific coast, then back on the Canadian side, crossing the Rockies with a pack-train. Another story that might have been written. And three weeks after his marriage he was taken prisoner by Riel and held in gaol at the Fort until early the next spring. The story of the first Riel Rebellion has often been told, and it is sufficient to say here that after his release Mr. Wright went into business and that the business still continues.

Until 1881 the Wrights lived on Main Street, and saw all about them the first stages of the great change in which Winnipeg has grown from an isolated trading post to a modern city. Then they moved to the farm which Mr. Wright had bought on the south side of Assiniboine—far out into the country in those days. The original farm was more than two thousand acres in extent, bounded on the west by what is now the east line of Assiniboine Park, and on the east by the present east boundary of the Children's Home grounds, and it reached the usual four miles back from the river. The house in which Mrs. Wright still lives is the one to which she came in 1881, altered to meet changing needs and changing tastes, but full of the atmosphere of earlier days. To get a true picture of the new home we must in imagination wipe out much that is familiar to us today. Then the Assiniboine was unbridged, except where the C.P.R. crossed it just west of Omand's Creek, and to go to "Winnipeg," as Mr. Wright went every day, taking the older children with him to school, one had either to ford the river in front of the Rectory or to drive to "the Forks" and cross on the pontoon where Main Street bridge now is. There was neither church nor school on the south side of the river; roads were rough or muddy in the summer, often closed by snow in the winter; the telephone was far in the future, as was electric light, and running water at the turn of a tap. "I did not get out very much while the children were young," said Mrs. Wright with a reminiscent smile. Behind that smile lay a whole unspoken chapter in our pioneer history, one that every mother will understand. It is a chapter made up of heavy toil, of anxious nights when illness came and no help was near, of stormy afternoons when one wondered if the children and their father would get safely home or, in later days when the younger children went to the school in Saint James—almost on the site of the one to which she herself had gone as a child—tried not to worry about the crossing of the railway bridge. But always on Sunday came release from the cares of the week, and with her family she would walk to church, down the south side of the river, across the C.P.R. bridge, back along the river path, and through the church-yard where she had picnicked so many years before.

The years have brought many changes. . . The old home has welcomed grandchildren and great-grand-children; the old church has passed the torch to daughter churches until now it is but a precious relic of the early days. And Mrs. Wright, young at heart, has kept pace with the changes, dividing her allegiance as always between her home—which includes her garden—and her church. Her work in the Woman's Auxiliary is mentioned elsewhere, and about her hospitality, her ready sympathy, her generosity, she would not like us to speak.

It will be a good year for lilacs, she thinks, if they escape the frost . . . it is twenty-five years past since she and Mr. Wright planted the hedge. And we like to think of her as we have seen her so often, in the early evening, crossing flower-laden into the church-yard that has been consecrated afresh by the resting bodies of her loved ones.

ISABEL ELIZABETH HENDERSON,
514 Tylehurst Street,
WINNIPEG

Roll of Honour

1914. — 1918

MEN OF ST. JAMES PARISH WHO SERVED THE EMPIRE DURING THE GREAT WAR

ARMSTRONG, G. L.	GORE, W. H.	PANTING, T.
ARMSTRONG, H. G.	GRANT, S.	PALMER, F.
ARMSTRONG, W. A. E.	GRAY, A. W.	PARTRIDGE, H. J.
ARMISHAW, M.	GREAVES, B. W.	POLLARD, F. D.
ARMISHAW, P.	GREGORY, F.	PUTLAND, W. H.
ARMISHAW, W.	GREGORY, J.	RANDLE, C.
AGGER, B.	GREATREX, B.	RATHERAM, H. F.
ATHHEY, F.	GUNN, M.	REID, C.
ATKINSON, B.	HACKING, H.	REID, H. T.
AHRONSON, H.	HARRIS, W.	REID, J.
BEARD, L. K.	HARRISON, J.	REID, P.
BEEVER, B.	HAYES, B.	ROBERTS, H.
BEEGS, C.	HAYNES, W.	ROBERTS, J.
BARRATT, F.	HELDT, F. G.	ROGERS, C.
BENNETT, T.	HOOPER, W.	ROGERS, W.
BERRY, O.	HOWARD, A. J.	ROWETT, F.
BRIDGE, ALEX.	ILIFFE, H. G.	ROWETT, F., Jr.
BRUNNING, C. H.	JEANS, E.	RICHARDS, W. J.
BILLYCALD, H.	JOLLY, W.	RUSTIGE, T.
CARTWRIGHT, H.	JOYCE, A.	SHELMERDINE, G.
CATENER, C. F.	JOYCE, T.	SIMMS, P.
CHAMPION, D.	KELLY, A.	SIMMS, P.
CLAPHAM, W.	KELLY, A. D.	SIMPSON, J.
CLARK, F. J.	KENNEDY, S. H.	SIMPSON, W. H.
CLAYTON, J. H.	KEMP, J.	SKIDMORE, R.
COLLIS, T.	KNIGHT, H. E.	SLATER, W. S.
COUPLAND, A.	LANE, T.	STANDON, —.
COUPLAND, C. S.	LAMB, C.	STOCKER, W.
CORMACK, G. R.	LEE, F.	TATTERSALL, F.
CORMACK, L. A.	LOWE, G.	VINEY, A. F.
CROSLAND, J.	LOWE, R.	WARING, C.
CUMMING, C.	LYONS, J. T.	WATSON, J.
CUPISS, F.	MacAULY, W.	WEBB, W.
DANY, N. J. L.	MacLENNAN, C. K.	WEIR, T.
DAWKINS, R.	McFADDEN, J.	WESTERN, G.
DONAGHY, F.	MANN, G.	WESTERN, N.
DUCKWORTH, H.	MARDON, E.	WIGLESWORTH, H.
DUTTON, J.	MATHERS, S. F.	WILDING, T. C.
ELSE, G. F.	METZLER, H.	WITHAM, H. F.
ENGLISH, S.	MINTON, F.	WOODHEAD, J. C.
EVANS, A. S.	MITCHELL, M.	WOLVERTON, J. A.
EVARD, A. S.	MOORE, A. E.	WRIGHT, R. W.
FORD, A. J.	NORTH, A.	WRIGHT, S. M.
GARRINGTON, F.	OAKLEY, C.	WRIGHT, W.
GARTHSIDE, W. T.	OAKLEY, J.	
GEORGE, E. W.		

MEN WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

COUPLAND, A.	KELLY, A.	ROGERS, W.
ELSE, G. E.	MANN, G.	SHELMERDINE, G.
GREAVES, B. W.	RUSTIGE, T.	SKIDMORE, R.
HOOPER, W. T.	ROGERS, C.	WEBB, W.



Rector, Wardens and Vestry, March, 1936

Officers of the Parish

Rector—REV. G. W. FINDLAY, M.A., L.Th.

Assistant to the Rector—Capt. C. H. J. Johnson, C.A.

Wardens—Messrs. J. R. Pritchard and D. L. Evans

Honorary Vestrymen—Messrs. R. Hillier, G. F. Richards, Frank W. Thompson

Select Vestry—

Mr. H. S. Bennett

Mr. Walter Bennett

Mr. T. E. Feesey

Mr. W. A. Fyles

Mr. A. F. Holland

Mr. S. F. Mathers

Mr. R. C. Neild

Col. E. A. Pridham

Mr. George W. Rowe

Mr. F. Sandell

Mr. S. E. Shepherd

Mr. D. A. Thompson

Lay Delegates to Synod—

Messrs. D. L. Evans, J. R. Pritchard, Frank W. Thompson

Verger—Mr. F. A. Todd

Junior Vestry—

President—Mr. F. Brooke Armstrong *Vice-President*—Mr. Ralph Stanley

Secretary—Mr. T. Turpin

Members—R. Brooke, N. R. Buxton, Douglas Goslin, Jas. Heden, W. Hunter,
Walter Johns, Richard Kemp, R. Morris, James Sinclair



Rector and Junior Vestry, March, 1936

St. James Cemetery

ABOUT the old St. James Church, lovingly called by those who know it "the old Church," stretches four acres of ground which have served all the years of its history as a burial place for those who have been "called to higher service." Indeed we have reason to believe that even before the selection of the site for the old Church, and one of the probable reasons for its selection was that it had been an Indian burial ground. The following quotation from the S.P.G. Monthly Record of Church Missions, 1855, would appear to prove this:—"On the first day of spring when the snow was melted and everything beaming with freshness, the Bishop and myself started to select a site for the projected church and parsonage. A vacant spot was fixed upon near the rendezvous of the poor Indians, who came into the settlement during the summer, and not far from the Indian burial-ground; so that from our dwellings may be seen the scalps suspended over the graves of the poor dark departed ones; and on the spot where for years, perhaps for ages, the heathen revels have been performed, will be built in due time, a temple to the living God."

For a number of years the general care and management of the cemetery was in the hands of the Rector who received the small amount paid for grave plots sold as a part of his income. Later a Cemetery Board was set up and appointed by the Rector acting with his vestry, and this has been the practice since that time. The Parish is deeply indebted to Mr. A. S. Pildrem, who acted as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board from 1917 to 1929. His painstaking care and untiring devotion established the Cemetery on a solid foundation and made our promise of perpetual care a calculated guarantee rather than a vain boast. The present Cemetery Board consists of the Rector as Chairman, the two Wardens, Messrs. D. A. Thompson and S. F. Mathers, with Mr. George W. Rowe as Secretary-Treasurer.

There is no ground for the impression that the cemetery is full. Plots are still available and will be for some years.

This quiet spot, "God's Acre," situated on the north bank of the quiet old Assiniboine and yet bounded on its very north by the traffic of busy Portage Avenue, with the old Church silently expressing the devotion of the pilgrim saints of the past at its very heart—St. James Cemetery is a desirable last earthly resting place for the mortal remains of souls who are "gathered unto their fathers."

*"For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be for ever blest,
Alleluia!"*

*"Let saints on earth in concert sing
With those whose work is done,
For all the servants of our King
In heaven and earth are one."*

Wardens of the Parish of Late Years

Year	Wardens	Year	Wardens
1913-1914	Mr. Dan Shelmerdine Mr. Geo. Smith	1925-1926	Mr. G. W. Jones Mr. R. Hillier
1914-1915	Mr. H. H. Harris Mr. Geo. F. Richards	1926-1927	Mr. G. W. Jones Mr. R. Hillier
1915-1916	Mr. E. J. Springett Mr. Geo. F. Richards	1927-1928	Mr. G. W. Jones Mr. R. Hillier
1916-1917	Mr. E. J. Springett Mr. Geo. F. Richards	1928-1929	Mr. F. W. Thompson Mr. R. Hillier
1917-1918	Mr. A. R. Jones Mr. Wm. Hutchinson	1929-1930	Mr. T. R. Roberts Mr. R. Hillier
1918-1919	Mr. A. R. Jones Mr. Wm. Hutchinson	1930-1931	Mr. F. R. Roberts Mr. R. Hillier
1919-1920	Mr. A. R. Jones Mr. Dan Shelmerdine	1931-1932	Mr. D. A. Thompson Mr. R. Hillier
1920-1921	Mr. A. R. Jones Mr. G. L. Armstrong	1932-1933	Mr. D. A. Thompson Mr. R. Hillier
1921-1922	Mr. A. R. Jones Mr. G. L. Armstrong	1933-1934	Mr. D. L. Evans Mr. R. Hillier
1922-1923	Mr. A. R. Jones Mr. G. L. Armstrong	1934-1935	Mr. D. L. Evans Mr. R. Hillier
1923-1924	Mr. G. W. Jones Mr. R. Hillier	1935-1936	Mr. J. R. Pritchard Mr. D. L. Evans
1924-1925	Mr. G. W. Jones Mr. R. Hillier	1936-1937	Mr. J. R. Pritchard Mr. D. L. Evans

Parish Organizations

A. Y. P. A.

President—Arthur Bourke

Vice-President—Alice Done

Local Council Representatives—Phyllis Woods, Ruth Buxton, Brooke Armstrong, Patricia Bennett, Thomas Turpin

Representative to Dramatic Club—Bob Brooke

Director of Dramatic Club—Mr. H. S. Bennett

MOTHER'S UNION

President—Mrs. R. Mills

Vice-President—Mrs. F. A. Todd

Secretary—Mrs. S. Nixon

Treasurer—Mrs. J. Wildgoose.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Senior Supt.—Mr. G. J. Goslin

Junior Supt.—Mr. E. Hodkinson

Primary Supt.—Mrs. H. J. Odger

Secretary—Miss B. Goslin

Treasurer—Mr. N. R. Buxton

Registrar—Mr. R. Stanley

Assistant Registrar—Mr. T. Turpin

Librarian—Miss J. Seigerist

Organist—Miss D. Loud

Leader Young Men's Bible Class—Mr. H. S. Bennett

Leader Teacher Training Class—Mrs. L. O. Bagot

ALTAR GUILD

President—Miss Loud

Vice-President—Miss Agnes Feesey

Secretary—Miss May Loud

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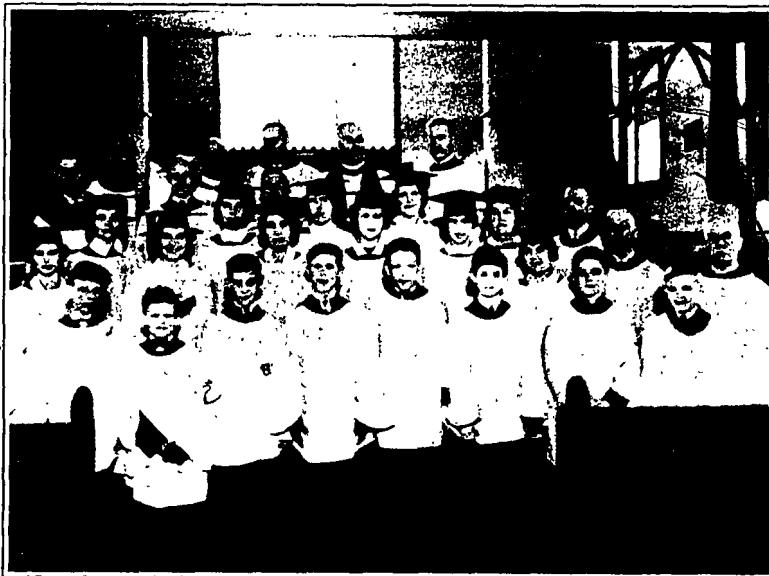
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If space would permit of it, the story of the activities of the organizations of the Parish would be recorded here. This is impossible, and therefore we shall have to be satisfied with the recording of the list of the personnel, and say to each one as his or her name appears before mind or eye: "Thank you. Your help is a worthwhile contribution. We appreciate it; and we are convinced that all such service rendered to His Glory in His Name and in His Spirit is acceptable to Him whose servants we are."



Sunday School Teachers, March, 1936



Choir, March, 1936

Gifts

PULPIT—"In loving memory of Ernest John Beard, died Dec. 14th, 1923. Presented by his loving wife, Rose Beard."

LECTERN—"In memory of Herbert Cowley, who entered into rest Dec. 15th, 1910."

LECTERN BIBLE—"St. James the Assinaboine, Rupertsland. Presented by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, 1852."

PRAYER DESK—"To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mary N. Barrett. Presented by her fellow workers in St. James W. A., 1926."

PRAYER DESK—"To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ellen Harriet Cumming. Presented by her fellow workers in St. James W. A., 1922."

ALTAR DESK—"Presented to St. James Church by Mrs. H. Lyke, Easter, 1914."

ALMS BASIN—"Presented to St. James Church by the Girls' Guild, Easter, 1911."

ALTAR SERVICE BOOK—"Presented to St. James Church by the Junior W. A., Christmas, 1925."

CHALICE AND PATEN—"The gift of the inhabitants of Clint, Worcestershire, the native Parish of the Rev. W. H. Taylor, the first minister of St. James Church, the Assinaboine, 1854."

PYX—"Winchester Cathedral, 1086-1896, by the Dean of Winchester."

ALTAR AND REREDOS—"In loving memory of my beloved parents, Mary Ann and W. J. Hillier. The gift of R. Hillier."

ALTAR CROSS—"Presented by the Mother's Union in memory of the Rev. G. I. Armstrong, Easter, 1914."

TWO CRUETS—Presented by Mrs. J. W. Anderson in memory of John and Jane Chivers.

BRASS VASES (two)—Presented to the Church by Mrs. W. R. James.

CHALICE—Presented to the Church by "A Friend of the Church," Easter, 1935.

ROOD SCREEN—"Presented to the Church by their only son, Frank W. Thompson, in memory of Samuel Thompson (1810-1886) of the Parish of St. James, Clerkenwell, and later of St. James Cathedral, Toronto, and Mary Thomson, his wife."

WARDEN'S WANDS—Presented to the Church by the Rev. G. W. Findlay.

CHALICE—"Presented by the Girls' Auxiliary in memory of the Rev. G. I. Armstrong, April 12, 1914."

SERVICE PRAYER BOOK—"Presented to St. James Church by the J. W. A., Christmas, 1925."

FALD STOOL—"Presented to St. James Church by the Girls' Guild in memory of the Rev. G. I. Armstrong, Nov. 3rd, 1912."

BRASS EWER—Presented to St. James Church by a Friend of the Church, Easter, 1935.

STATUETTE—The gift of Mrs. C. L. Thring. At one time the property of her father the Rev. Canon Gore, Canon Residentiary and Archdeacon of Cheshire.

STONE BOWL FOR FONT—Presented to the Rector by the late Rev. I. M. Thompson, at one time Rector of Trinity Church, Quebec, from articles saved from that building when it was destroyed by fire.

And many other gifts which cannot for various reasons be particularised, but which are most cordially acknowledged.



Chancel, March, 1936

An Appreciation

A word of appreciation to those who have made this Anniversary Book possible, namely, those who have advertised in it, is certainly not out of place. It is quite true the solicitation of the advertising matter was done on a strictly business basis, and, as far as the Parish of St. James was concerned, no sentiment had any place in the appeal. At the same time, as we have intimated above—we are the undoubted beneficiaries of their affirmative response in one sense at least, and we are grateful. We trust our readers may be led through the advertisements into happy business relationships which will react to their advantage and also to the advantage of those whose names and claims—through this medium—now appear before you.

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Congratulations to St. James Anglican
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